



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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HIGHLIGHTS

July 1 U.S. Cattle Inventory
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U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2008, totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007 and down 1 percent from the 105.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, was down slightly from both July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 33.2 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.25 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2008 and the changes from July 1, 2007, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.6 million, down 2 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.9 million, unchanged.
- Other heifers, 8.0 million, unchanged.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.7 million, down 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 28.6 million, down slightly.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 5 percent.

The 2008 calf crop is expected to be 37.3 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are

estimated at 27.1 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006.

U.S. July 1 Sheep, Lamb and Goat Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2008 totaled 7.35 million head, down 3 percent from July 1, 2007, and 5 percent below July 1, 2006. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.42 million head on July 1, 2008 was down 3 percent from July 1, 2007. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 2.93 million head, were down 4 percent from last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.62 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 2.86 million head was comprised of 1.67 million lambs under 65 pounds, 595,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 340,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 250,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000 head.

The 2008 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 3.97 million head, down 2 percent from the 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2008 totaled 3.48 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 490,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2008.

All goat inventory on July 1, 2008 totaled 3.73 million head, up 4 percent from the previous year. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.81 million head, up 4 percent from July 2007. All market goats and kids totaled 925,000 head, up 2 percent from the previous July. On July 1, 2008 meat and all other goats totaled 3.15 million head, up 5 percent from July 2007. Milk goat inventory was up 4 percent to 350,000 head while angora goat numbers fell 12 percent to

230,000 head. The 2008 kid crop is expected to total 2.03 million head, up 5 percent from the 2007 kid crop of 1.94 million head.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.3 million head on July 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below July 1, 2007 and 5 percent below July 1, 2006. The inventory included 6.43 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.82 million head, down 3 percent from 2007.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.51 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 22 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.45 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000, 600-699 pounds were 325,000, 700-799 pounds were 383,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 1.97 million, 8 percent below 2007 and 10 percent below 2006. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of June since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during June, 15 percent above 2007, but 5 percent below 2006.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2008, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 11.7 million, down 5 percent from the 12.3 million on July 1, 2007 and down 6 percent from July 1, 2006. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 88 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2008, up 1 percent from July 1, 2007.

Mink Pelt Production

This is the first year mink production numbers were published for Montana. During 2007, there were 8 farms with a total production of 25,930 pelts, of which 9,000 were in the black color class. In 2008, there were 6,690 females bred to produce kits, 4,000 of which were in the black color class.

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2007 totaled 2.83 million pelts, down 1 percent from 2006. Wisconsin produced the most at 914,100 pelts. Utah was second with 599,430 pelts produced.

The number of pelts by color class as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2007 is as follows: Black at 52 percent, Mahogany at 20 percent, Blue Iris at 10 percent, Demi/Wild at 5 percent, White at 4 percent, and Sapphire at 4 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 5 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2007 crop year, sold in 2008, were valued at \$186 million, up 34 percent from \$139 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2007 crop year was \$65.70, up \$17.30 from \$48.40 in 2006.

Female mink bred to produce kits in 2008 totaled 691,170, down 1 percent from the previous year. Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2008 by color class: Black at 54 percent, Mahogany at 20 percent, Blue Iris at 9 percent, Sapphire at 4 percent, Demi/Wild at 4 percent, and White at 3 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 6 percent.

There were 283 mink farms producing pelts in 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. The three leading States were Wisconsin with 71 farms, Utah with 65 farms, and Idaho with 24 farms.

June 2008 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 0.9 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2008, down 18 percent from June 2007, but 14 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, down 200 head from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 64 pounds to 1,185 pounds.

During June there were 700 hogs slaughtered, down 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 248 pounds, was up 6 pounds from last year. June sheep slaughter totaled 200 head, unchanged from June 2007. The average live weight in June 2008 was 111 pounds, an increase of 6 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 4.03 billion pounds produced in June 2007.

Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,261 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 5 percent above June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 75,400 head, up 23 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 41 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, up 7 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 266 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from June 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 192,400 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, unchanged from June a year ago.

January to June 2008 commercial red meat production was 25.0 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 10 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

2008 Wheat and Barley Varieties

Montana farmers seeded 2.6 million acres of winter wheat in 2008, up from the 2.24 million acres seeded the previous year. Montana ranks fourth in the United States for seeded winter wheat acreage, up from the fifth spot in 2007. The top four winter wheat varieties account for 48.9 percent of the state's total acreage. Genou is the top winter wheat variety planted in Montana for the second year in a row. Farmers planted 513,200 acres of the variety or 19.7 percent of the total winter wheat acreage. The variety was released by Montana State University in 2004. CDC Falcon is the second most planted variety this year for the third year in a row. A total of 348,800 acres were planted to the variety or 13.4 percent of the state's total acreage. Yellowstone rises from the eleventh most popular winter wheat variety last year to the third most common variety in 2008. It accounts for 8.4 percent of the state's planted acreage with 218,400 acres seeded. Yellowstone is a hard red winter wheat developed by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and released in 2005. Rampart falls from the third most common winter wheat variety planted in 2007 to the fourth most common seeded in 2008 with 189,900 acres. It accounts for 7.3 percent of the state's planted acreage.

In 2008, there were 2.5 million acres of spring wheat planted in Montana, keeping the state ranked at second for highest acres planted. In 2007, 2.45 million acres were planted. The top four spring wheat varieties account for 63.3 percent of all Montana's spring wheat acreage. Reeder is the top spring wheat variety planted this year with 620,100 acres planted or 24.8 percent of all spring wheat planted in Montana. This is the third year in a row this variety has been at the top of the list. Reeder was developed by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and released in 1999. Choteau is the second most common variety this year with 564,700 acres planted or 22.6 percent of Montana's spring wheat acres. It was the second most common variety last year also. Choteau was developed by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 2003. McNeal is ranked third for the second year in a row with 294,300 acres planted or 11.8 percent of all acres seeded. McNeal was developed by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and released in March 1995. Fortuna rises from being the fifth most planted variety in 2007 to being the fourth most common in 2008. A total of 103,000 acres or 4.1 percent of Montana's spring wheat crop is seeded to the variety. Fortuna was developed by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA's Crops Research Division.

Durum wheat acreage increased from 480,000 acres planted in 2007 to 610,000 acres planted in 2008. Montana is still ranked the second highest in durum wheat acreage in the nation. The top four durum wheat varieties make up 69.8 percent of Montana's durum wheat acreage. Mountrail remains the top durum wheat variety in the state for the fifth year in a row with 239,600 acres seeded, or 39.3 percent of the durum wheat acreage. Mountrail was developed from the cross of D8479 and Renville by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and was released in 1999. Kyle is in second place again this year for the fifth year in a row. There were 86,000 acres seeded in the state, accounting for 14.1 percent of the state's total acres. Kyle was developed by the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Swift Current, Saskatchewan and released in 1984. Strongfield rises from the tenth most common durum variety last year to the third most common in 2008. A total of 51,100 acres or 8.4 percent of Montana's durum acreage is planted to the variety. Strongfield was released by Ag Canada in 2004. Alzada is the fourth leading durum wheat variety seeded for the third year in a row with 48,800 acres planted or 8.0 percent of Montana's durum wheat acreage. It was developed by WestBred, LLC and released in 2004. (continued on back page)

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 2/	2008
Genou	--	--	--	--	2.2	15.8	19.7
CDC Falcon	--	--	1.8	3.9	10.9	13.3	13.4
Yellowstone	--	--	--	--	--	3.7	8.4
Rampart	19.6	25.7	28.6	24.8	19.2	9.6	7.3
Ledger	--	--	--	--	2.4	5.8	6.7
Jaqalene	--	--	--	1.5	6.2	5.6	5.4
Tiber	11.2	9.5	9.3	10.0	7.1	5.0	5.3
Morgan	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.1	5.3	5.0
Neeley	19.9	16.8	15.4	12.6	9.3	7.8	4.1
Pryor	--	--	0.6	1.7	3.3	4.6	3.5
Jerry	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	2.8
Rocky	11.1	8.0	6.0	7.6	7.1	4.4	1.9
Vanguard	9.1	6.8	7.6	6.8	2.9	1.4	1.7
Big Sky	--	--	0.9	0.7	2.7	1.3	1.2
Judith	0.5	--	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.6	1.0
Redwin	5.0	3.0	2.4	2.5	1.7	1.4	0.9
Promontory	--	1.3	0.8	1.5	3.5	2.5	0.8
Roughrider	0.5	1.0	--	--	--	--	0.7
Big Horn	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.6
Carlisle	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Tomahawk	0.9	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.8	0.4
Norris	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Winalta	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.4
Nuwest**	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.8	--
Warrior	0.6	0.6	--	--	--	0.6	--
Nufrontier**	--	1.5	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.8	--
Other & Unknown	10.8	14.0	11.5	12.0	10.2	6.6	7.8
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 2/ Revised. **White wheat variety.

--Data not published for the given year.

Variety 1/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 2/	2008
Reeder	9.1	18.4	22.7	26.4	27.6	28.1	24.8
Choteau	--	--	--	1.5	16.5	22.4	22.6
McNeal	38.8	35.9	31.7	29.0	21.3	14.9	11.8
Fortuna	7.8	3.8	4.6	5.7	4.1	4.3	4.1
Corbin	--	--	--	--	--	2.2	3.5
AC Lillian	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.0
Conan	5.0	3.7	7.1	7.1	6.8	5.0	2.7
Hank	--	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.5
Ernest	11.4	11.0	10.0	10.7	5.5	3.1	2.4
Amidon	6.2	4.0	3.0	2.5	1.8	1.7	1.8
Outlook	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.6	1.5
Kelby	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.0
Westbred 936	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8
NorPro	--	--	--	--	--	0.8	0.8
Parshall	1.4	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7
Scholar	1.9	3.0	2.2	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.7
Howard	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.6
Freyr	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	0.6
Newana	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	--	0.6
Westbred 926	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5
Glenn	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	--
Gunner	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7	--	0.5	--
Lew	1.8	2.8	2.4	1.4	0.8	0.4	--
Westbred Rambo	3.8	2.7	3.2	1.1	1.2	0.4	--
Other & Unknown	9.5	8.6	7.5	7.1	8.6	9.0	13.0
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Hard red variety. 2/ Revised. --Data not published for the given year.

Durum wheat

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 1/	2008
Mountrail	26.9	35.7	42.1	52.9	52.6	44.8	39.3
Kyle	40.2	38.0	34.1	21.4	15.7	15.4	14.1
Strongfield	--	--	--	--	--	1.2	8.4
Alzada	--	--	--	1.3	4.8	5.1	8.0
Lebsock	0.3	3.4	2.3	5.4	10.1	12.3	5.7
Grenora	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	3.8
Divide	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	3.7
Pierce	--	--	--	1.3	5.6	5.3	2.3
Grande D'Oro	--	--	--	--	--	1.9	2.1
Monroe	1.2	3.4	1.7	1.9	0.6	1.3	2.0
Alkabo	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.5
AC Avonlea	3.4	4.3	7.2	5.3	2.3	1.0	1.1
Dilse	--	--	--	--	0.8	2.8	0.8
Maier	--	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.3	0.6
AC Morse	2.1	--	--	--	--	--	0.4
Vic	1.4	--	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.4	--
Ward	2.8	2.4	2.8	1.7	2.3	1.5	--
Other & Unknown	21.7	12.5	8.7	7.3	3.5	5.4	6.2
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. --Data not published for the given year.

Barley

Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 1/	2008
AC Metcalfe*	--	0.7	4.9	9.2	17.6	19.6	22.4
Harrington*	47.6	47.1	39.8	29.4	28.7	23.0	18.6
Haybet	10.5	9.9	10.4	17.0	14.9	11.8	9.3
Tradition*	--	--	--	1.5	3.4	2.0	6.2
Haxby	--	--	--	0.6	1.6	3.8	5.4
Conrad*	--	--	--	1.4	2.9	2.2	5.3
Merit*	2.6	3.8	4.3	4.8	4.4	6.3	4.8
Moravian 37	4.3	3.9	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.5
Conlon*	--	--	0.9	0.7	1.7	2.5	3.2
Baronesse	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	1.7	2.7	3.0
Bowman	3.0	2.1	1.4	2.6	2.2	1.9	2.1
Hays	--	--	--	0.7	1.7	2.4	2.0
Legacy*	0.6	1.0	2.8	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.1
Stark	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	--	1.0
Lewis	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9
CDC Copeland*	--	--	--	--	--	1.1	0.9
Prowashanupana	--	--	--	--	0.7	--	0.9
Horsford	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.8
Westford	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.6	0.8
Stellar*	--	--	--	--	--	0.6	0.8
Valier	1.1	0.9	2.3	1.5	1.9	1.2	0.8
Westbred Xena	--	0.9	0.9	2.4	0.8	1.0	0.7
Hector	3.1	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.4	0.8	0.4
Gallatin	1.9	2.9	3.5	1.7	1.1	1.6	--
Piroline	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.8	--	0.7	--
Other & Unknown	12.7	13.0	12.1	10.4	4.5	6.9	5.1
All Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Revised. *Denotes variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc. for planting in 2008. --Data not published for the given year.

2008 Wheat and Barley Varieties

(continued from page two)

Montana farmers seeded 910,000 acres of barley in 2008, up from 900,000 acres in 2007. Montana ranks second in the United States for barley acreage after North Dakota. About sixty-three percent of this year's barley was seeded to malting varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc., (AMBA) for use in Montana. The top variety seeded in Montana was AC Metcalfe, followed by Harrington. Previously, Harrington was the top variety for fourteen years in a row.

AC Metcalfe is the leading barley variety this year. It was seeded on 203,500 acres or 22.4 percent of Montana's barley acreage. The variety is a two-rowed malting barley developed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, located in Brandon, Manitoba. **Harrington** drops to the second highest ranked variety after being the most common seeded variety for fourteen straight years. In 2008, it was planted on 169,400 acres or 18.6 percent of all barley acreage. Harrington has been recommended by the AMBA since 1989. **Tradition** is the third top malting barley variety this year. It accounts for 56,300 of the barley acres seeded this year or 6.2 percent of the acreage. Tradition is a six-rowed malt barley developed by Busch Agricultural Resources Inc. and was recommended by the AMBA for use in Montana. **Conrad** is ranked the fourth leading malting barley variety seeded for the 2008 crop year. A total of 48,500 acres or 5.3 percent of all barley is planted to the variety. This variety is a two-rowed malting barley variety that was developed by Busch Agricultural Resources and is recommended by AMBA.

Haybet remains the top forage barley variety seeded for the ninth year in a row, with 84,300 acres seeded or 9.3 percent of the total barley acres in 2008. It was developed cooperatively

by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 1989. **Hays** is again the second most common forage barley variety with 18,000 acres seeded or 2.0 percent of the state acreage. It is a two-rowed hooded hay barley developed by Montana State University, and it is a cross between Haybet and Baronesse varieties.

Haxby is the top variety planted for feed purposes in 2008 for the second year in a row. It was seeded on 49,400 acres this year and represents 5.4 percent of the state total. **Baronesse** is the second most popular feed barley variety seeded for the second year in a row. In 2008, it was seeded on 27,200 acres or 3.0 percent of the state's barley acreage. It was developed in Germany and distributed in the U.S. by the Western Plant Breeders.

June U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during June totaled 14.7 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent from June 2007. May revised production at 15.4 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from May 2007. The May revision represented an increase of 14 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,737 pounds for June, 25 pounds above June 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 158,000 head more than June 2007, and 1,000 head more than May 2008.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April - June quarter totaled 48.7 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from the April - June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.27 million head, 136,000 head more than the same period last year.

U.S. June Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.37 billion during June 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.27 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2008 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from June 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2008 totaled 337 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2008, averaged 73.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from July 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2008 totaled 42.5 million, up 5 percent from June 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.9 million on July 1, 2008, up 9 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 231 thousand during June 2008, down 23 percent from June 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2008 totaled 806 million, down slightly from June 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on July 1, 2008, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.77 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2008, down slightly from June 2007.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Small Grains Production
Ag Land Values and	Hay Production
Cash Rents	
Sheep County Estimates	

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